

Remarks

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1-40 are rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-40.

Claims 1-8, 15-28, and 35-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,315,636 (Patel).

Claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 require, in a portable user device, receiving a user registration input, initiating a telephone call in the communication system by automatically transferring audible call tones from the portable user device to a telephone device in response to the user registration input, and transferring audible user identification tones over the telephone call. Claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 further require, in a control system, answering the telephone call, receiving the audible user identification tones, receiving a location indicator, processing the audible user identification tones and the location indicator to generate a route instruction, and transferring the route instruction to the communication system, wherein the route instruction routes telephone calls for the user to a communication device associated with the location indicator.

Therefore, in operation, the user holds the portable user device to the handset of a telephone and activates the device. The device *automatically* generates audible call tones and audible user identification tones into the handset. These tones, along with the telephone number of the telephone, are used to route calls to the telephone that are intended for the user. Advantageously, the invention of any of the embodiments may be implemented to allow a mobile user to automatically receive communications despite moving around within a communication system. Another advantage is that the user does not have to manually register by dialing a number and entering digits.

Patel does not teach or suggest (in a portable user device, initiating a telephone call in a communication system by automatically transferring audible call tones from a portable user device to a telephone device in response to a user registration input.) In contrast, in Patel the user manually initiates a telephone call to a service node by dialing, and then the user enters a desired telephone number in which to receive calls (see col. 11, lines 35-55).

Independent claims 1, 15, 21, and 35 therefore include features that are neither taught nor suggested by Patel. Claims 2-8 16-20, 22-28 and 36-40 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1, 15, 21, and 35.

Claims 9-14 and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Patel in view of U.S. Patent 6,421,536 (Uranaka et al.). Claims 9-14 and 29-34 depend from independent claims 1 and 21 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-40.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

Date: 1/30/04


SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Gregg Jansen, Reg. No. 46,799
Duft Setter Ollila & Bornsen LLC
Telephone: (303) 938-9999 ext. 14
Facsimile: (303) 938-9995

Correspondence address:

CUSTOMER NO. 028004

Harley R. Ball
Sprint Law Department
6391 Sprint Parkway
Mailstop: KSOPHT0101-Z2100
Overland Park, KS 66251-2100